

**December 29, 2011 Minutes of
Bigfork Land Use Advisory Committee
Bethany Lutheran Church**

Committee members present: Susan Johnson, Joyce Mitchell, Sterling Kerr, John Bourquin, Paul Guerrant, Shelley Gonzales, John Righetti, Sue Hanson and 12 members of the public.

Chairman Gonzales called the meeting to order at 4:00p.m.

The Agenda was adopted as presented (m/sc Righetti/Mitchell)-unanimous.

Minutes of the December 1, 2011 meeting were approved. (m/sc Righetti/Mitchell)

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

A. Sign-in Sheet: Reminder to the public of the availability of BLUAC minutes through email and BSC website bigforksteering.org/. Agendas are posted on the Flathead County Planning Office website flathead.mt.gov/

B. Status: the Flathead County Planning Board approved the application for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Helena on October 19, 2011. Flathead County Commissioners approved the application on December 21, 2011.

C. Elections: Three positions are to be elected on May 8, 2012: Shelley Gonzales (3 year term), Paul Guerrant (3 year term), Susan Johnson (1 year term remaining). Petitions to file for elected positions are due at the Election Office on February 23, 2012.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPLICATIONS:

A. Sortino Family (FZV-11-02): A request by Sarah, Jolene and Paloma Dugan, Lesley Stokke and Bianca Angell for a variance to Section 3.07.040(2) "Bulk and Dimensional Requirements" for a "SAG-10 Suburban Agricultural" zone, requiring a lot or parcel to maintain an average depth no greater than three (3) times its average width, unless the lot or parcel's width is greater than 300 feet. The variance requested would apply to five adjacent tracts of land located at 494, 482, 440, 414, and 386 Holt Drive in Bigfork and within the Holt zoning district.

STAFF: Allison Mouch: Based on new information received in the last 48 hours, and public comment received by the Planning Office, the applicant requested the application be pulled. BJ Grieve: The Planning Office received official notice that the applicant was withdrawing the application and there was not sufficient time to notify the public. We decided to attend the meeting tonight in case there were procedural questions. Should the applicant choose to proceed, they will need to go through the entire process again.

APPLICANT: Olaf Irvin: The applicant has no intention to reapply.

PUBLIC AGENCIES:

Julie Spencer: The BWS would like to know if the current lots are still viable lots to serve. **A:** Allison Mouch: Yes, the lots are status quo.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Status grant funding for website:

Craig Wagner: (Presented two handouts to the committee)

1. **Costs to maintain website:** The cost for hosting is the non-profit rate of \$10 per month (\$120 per year) billed every six months. Domain Registration is \$35 per year and is paid up until November 12, 2013.
2. **Grant Funding:** There are quite a few foundations in the state of MT. We looked into the Orton Family Foundation, Montana Community Foundation, Flathead Community Foundation, which require a 501-c-3 incorporation to qualify. I spoke to Mike Randall of Flathead Electric, which has sources for grant funding. Other suggestions are CFBB, Flathead Bank and Glacier Bank. We could also put together a plea for funds from our mailing list.

Gonzales: Orton Family Foundation looks like a venue to look at for funding for updating the Bigfork Neighborhood Plan. There is the possibility to put it together with what Polson is doing for bringing business into Bigfork, etc.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Donation for Bethany Lutheran Church:

Guerrant: The BSC has had a tradition of making donations to the church for use of its facilities. In the past we have had BSC funds to do this.

BJ Grieve: I think we need to check with the Co. Attorney regarding this. My understanding is that county committees cannot raise funds.

Ed Blackler: Steering Committee existed prior to BLUAC. It was established in the early 90's, before the Bigfork Neighborhood Plan was in place. The BSC became a sub-committee to BLUAC much later by a change in BLUAC Bylaws. This is something that will have a bearing in the future.

BJ Grieve: To be clear, you are still under the discussion of fundraising and it would be a good idea to seek the advise of the Flathead County Attorney.

Gonzales: With that in mind, we will postpone a decision until we have that information.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30p.m.

Next meeting January 26, 2012

Sue Hanson
BLUAC Secretary